

CHANGES PROPOSED FOR 2002

Before filling out your deer or other big game applications read the following summary of proposed changes to this year's hunting seasons, zone and hunt boundaries and bag limits. Final adoption of mammal hunting regulations by the Fish and Game Commission is set for April 25, 2002. For more information, please contact your nearest DFG office after April 29, 2002. Look for complete mammal hunting regulations at license agents, DFG offices and on the Internet at www.dfg.ca.gov/enforcement/regs.html in late May.

POINT SYSTEM FOR BIG GAME DRAWINGS

The Department is proposing to start tracking points for unsuccessful draw applicants beginning with the 2002 hunting application season. This proposal is in response to possible changes in tag draw methods to be considered for implementation in the 2003/2004 hunting season by the Fish and Game Commission later this year.

Any person who applies for premium deer tag drawing who is unsuccessful on their first choice will receive a point. Junior hunters may only accrue points based on their one-deer tag application.

Any applicants for elk, antelope or bighorn sheep hunts who are not awarded tags through the drawing will receive a point for that species. (See page 4 for more information.)

DEER

Second Deer Tag Applications

The Department will now issue second deer tags for any remaining C, D zones or additional hunts on August 2, 2002, which is a month earlier than in previous years. This will increase hunter opportunity, especially for those wishing to hunt during the archery seasons. However, tag quotas for many zones (C, D6, D9 and D12) have historically filled on or before the previous issue date in September, so you should apply early.

AO#1 AND AO#2 TAGS NO LONGER VALID IN C ZONES. For archery hunting in C zones, see A1 hunt.

A1 ARCHERY ONLY C ZONE TAG. This tag is now valid for the archery seasons in **all** C zones.

A2 HUNT ELIMINATED. This hunt is now incorporated in A1 hunt tag.

C ZONE TAG is now valid for general seasons only in all C zones.

A22 (SECOND PERIOD), A31 AND G19 HUNT SEASONS MODIFIED to end December 31, in order to complete harvest and population data analysis by mid-January as required.

A23 HUNT ELIMINATED to end redundancy with A31 harvest objectives. This change will cause no reduction in hunter opportunity.

NEW A32 LATE SEASON EITHER-SEX ARCHERY HUNT established in those portions of Ventura and Los Angeles counties within the A zone.

M6 HUNT SEASON MOVED UP to begin the third Saturday in December and extend through December 31 (December 21-31).

ALL JUNIOR HUNTS MODIFIED to remove the restriction that the adult chaperon be licensed and non hunting.

FIVE NEW JUNIOR HUNTS ADDED. Three new D zone hunts: J16 (Zone D3 Junior Either-sex Deer Hunt), J17 (Zone D4 Junior Either-sex Deer Hunt) and J18 (Zone D5 Junior Either-sex Deer Hunt); and two X7 zone hunts: J19 (Zone X7a Junior Either-sex Deer Hunt) and J20 (Zone X7b Junior Either-sex Deer Hunt). Refer to the mammal hunting regulations for boundary modifications due to county veto authority over these hunts.

D4 BOUNDARY EXPANDED to include the area bounded by Blackwood Canyon, Lake Tahoe, McKinney Creek and the Pacific Crest Trail to provide additional hunting opportunity and expanded access.

D5 BOUNDARY MODIFIED to make the distinction between X8 and D5 more recognizable. A portion of the boundary between these zones will change from the Sierra crest to the Pacific Crest Trail.

SANTA CATALINA ISLAND ADDED TO D15 HUNTING AREA DESCRIPTION in order to clarify the island's zone status. (The island is private property and written permission is required to hunt.)

X7A AND X7B SEASONS DELAYED by two weeks to open the first Saturday in October (October 5-20). This change will reduce conflicts with season openers in various B, C and D zones and provide more desirable hunting conditions.

X7B BOUNDARY MODIFIED to remove the area bound by Blackwood Canyon, Lake Tahoe, McKinney Creek and the Pacific Crest Trail in the southern portion of X7b.

X8 BOUNDARY MODIFIED to make the distinction between X8 and D5 more recognizable. A portion of the boundary between these zones will change from the Sierra crest to the Pacific Crest Trail.

J8 SEASON OPENER MOVED UP by two weeks to open the first Saturday in December and extend through December 31 (December 7-31).

MILITARY LAND HUNTS

Events of September 11, 2001 forced the cancellation of most hunts on military bases due to increased security and military operations. In an effort to provide more flexibility for the scheduling of these hunting seasons, the Department has provided a window between the scheduled season opening and December 31, in which the hunt can be conducted. Should the base Commander choose to reschedule the hunt season, it must be with the concurrence of the

Department and occur before December 31. In the event the commanding officer cancels a hunt, tagholders will only have the option of exchanging the unused tag for any remaining deer tag or receiving a refund.

PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

CARRIZO HUNT ELIMINATED because of the continued poor population status of pronghorn antelope in the Carrizo plains.

NELSON BIGHORN SHEEP

The Department proposed only minor quota and editorial changes.

ELK

MARBLE MOUNTAINS QUOTA INCREASED from 30 either-sex tags to 40 either-sex tags.

BIG LAGOON QUOTA CHANGED from 25 either-sex tags to 12 bull tags and 13 antlerless tags.

SHASTA QUOTA CHANGED (note: also renamed as the Northeastern California Rocky Mountain Elk Hunt) from one bull tag and four antlerless tags to five either-sex (archery only) tags and 10 either-sex (general) tags.

KLAMATH QUOTA CHANGED from 30 either-sex tags to 15 bull tags and 15 antlerless tags.

TINEMAHA HUNT BULL QUOTA REDUCED from 10 tags to 6 tags.

NEW OWENS VALLEY ARCHERY ONLY HUNT establishes a nine day, archery only hunt period for existing zones in the Owens Valley beginning on the second Saturday in August (August 10-18). Under this proposed change archery only tags are not valid during any other period, and no other tags are valid during the archery only period for the Owens Valley.

SHASTA BOUNDARY EXPANDED AND HUNT RENAMED as the Northeastern California Rocky Mountain Elk Hunt. The proposed change expands the current hunt zone from Shasta County to include portions of Modoc, Lassen and eastern Siskiyou counties, so that additional recreational opportunities can be provided consistent with the expansion of elk populations in and near the current hunt area. The hunt has been renamed the Northeastern California Rocky Mountain Elk Hunt to reflect the major expansion of hunt zone boundaries.

MARBLE MOUNTAINS BOUNDARY EXPANDED to include portions of Humboldt, Trinity and Shasta counties. This will provide additional recreational opportunities consistent with the expansion of Roosevelt elk within and adjacent to the hunt area.

BIG LAGOON BOUNDARY EXPANDED to include another portion of Humboldt County. The hunt occurs on land owned primarily by the Simpson Timber Company. They have requested that this boundary be expanded to allow hunters additional opportunity to hunt elk on their lands.

BEAR

HARVEST QUOTA INCREASED from 1,500 to 1,700. Under current regulation the season must be closed early if the number of bears reported killed reaches the harvest quota. During each of the past five years, the bear hunting season closed early, before the last Sunday in December. The proposed change is intended to increase bear hunting opportunity by allowing the season to continue until the last Sunday in December. The bear population has increased from 23,000 to 31,000 so this change will not have a significant impact on the black bear population.

X8, X9A, X9B, X10 AND X12 BEAR HUNTING SEASONS MOVED UP to open concurrently with the general deer hunting seasons. This change will provide additional hunting opportunities for those who wish to hunt bear and deer during the deer hunting season.

CLARIFIED LANGUAGE which prohibits the use of bait and attractants for bear hunting purposes.



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